

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a fiber bundle having a length from a required number of unbound partial bundles having the same lengths, the method comprising:

- (a) transporting a fiber bundle strand using at least one feed element;
- (b) pre-cutting the fiber bundle strand into unbound partial bundles, the unbound partial bundles having said length;
- (c) releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one feed element;
- (d) gripping the unbound partial bundles using at least one gripping element;
- (e) releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one gripping element; and
- (f) placing the unbound partial bundles in a first collection trough of a collection device; and
- (g) repeating steps (a) to (f) sequentially for the required number of unbound partial bundles until a required thickness of the fiber bundle is obtained in the first collection trough.

2. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising placing the partial bundles in a collection trough after the releasing from the at least one gripping element.

3. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one feed element and the at least one gripping element are moved at a same speed in a direction of transportation of the partial bundles during the releasing from the at least one feed element and during the gripping of the partial bundles and wherein a later speed of the at least one gripping element is reduced after the gripping of the partial bundles.

4. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one gripping element is not moved in a direction of the fiber bundle strand during the

release of the partial bundle from the at least one gripping element.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing fiber bundles comprising the steps, ~~performed sequentially~~, of:

- transporting a fiber bundle using at least one feed element;
- pre-cutting the fiber bundle strand into unbound partial bundles, the unbound partial bundles having a length;
- releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one feed element;
- gripping the unbound partial bundles using at least one gripping element;
- releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one gripping element;
- placing the unbound partial bundles having the same lengths in a first collection trough of a collection device; and
- rotating the collection device after the first collection trough is filled and placing the unbound partial bundles in a further collection trough of the collection device.

6. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising placing the partial bundles in a collection trough of a collection device and retaining the partial bundles using a retaining apparatus.

7. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one gripping element includes a plurality of gripping elements.

8. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one feed element includes a plurality of feed elements.

9. (Cancelled) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one gripping element includes a plurality of gripping elements and the at least one feed element includes a plurality of feed elements.

10. (Cancelled) An apparatus for manufacturing fiber bundles comprising:  
at least one feed element for transporting a fiber bundle strand;  
a cutting device for separating the fiber bundle strand into partial bundles;  
at least one gripping element for gripping the partial bundles, the at least one

feed element being movable in a direction of transportation of the fiber bundle strand and the at least one gripping element being partly movable at least in one other direction differing from the direction of transportation; and

a collection device for receiving the partial bundles.

11. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the at least one gripping element is also movable in the direction of transportation of the partial bundles at a same speed as the at least one feed element.

12. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the at least one feed element includes a first gripping arm and a second gripping arm movable relative to the first gripping arm and wherein the at least one gripping element includes a third gripping arm and a fourth gripping arm movable relative to the third gripping arm.

13. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the collection device includes at least two plates, the plates having collection troughs disposed in a circumferential direction, the at least one gripping element being movable between the collection troughs.

14. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 13 wherein the plates are rotatable.

15. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 further comprising a retaining apparatus for covering collection troughs in the collection device, the retaining apparatus being movable relative to the collection troughs.

16. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the at least one gripping element includes a plurality of gripping elements.

17. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the at least one feed element includes a plurality of feed elements.

18. (Cancelled) The apparatus as recited in claim 10 wherein the at least one

gripping element includes a plurality of gripping elements and the at least one feed element includes a plurality of feed elements.

19. (New) A method for manufacturing a filter element for a dialyzer, the filter element including a fiber bundle having a length from a required number of unbound partial bundles having the same lengths, the method comprising:

- (a) transporting a fiber bundle strand using at least one feed element;
- (b) pre-cutting the fiber bundle strand into unbound partial bundles, the unbound partial bundles having said length;
- (c) releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one feed element;
- (d) gripping the unbound partial bundles using at least one gripping element;
- (e) releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one gripping element; and
- (f) placing the unbound partial bundles in a first collection trough of a collection device; and
- (g) repeating steps (a) to (f) for the required number of unbound partial bundles until a required thickness of the fiber bundle is obtained in the first collection trough.

20. (New) A method for manufacturing a filter element for a dialyzer, the filter element including fiber bundles comprising the steps of:

- transporting a fiber bundle using at least one feed element;
- pre-cutting the fiber bundle strand into unbound partial bundles, the unbound partial bundles having a length;
- releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one feed element;
- gripping the unbound partial bundles using at least one gripping element;
- releasing the unbound partial bundles from the at least one gripping element;
- placing the unbound partial bundles having the same lengths in a first collection trough of a collection device; and
- rotating the collection device after the first collection trough is filled and placing the unbound partial bundles in a further collection trough of the collection device.